

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling cassettes ~~(9, 9')~~ for bank notes, comprising for automatic tellers (10) and/or deposit devices,
characterized by the steps ~~[[of]]~~:
determining the filling level of at least one the cassette ~~(9, 9')~~ or cassettes ~~(9, 9')~~,
comparing the determined filling level of the at least one each cassette ~~(9, 9')~~
with at least one threshold value lower than a maximum capacity of the at least one
particular cassette ~~(9, 9')~~,
producing a signal indicating the exceeding of the threshold value if the
comparison yields an excess, and
causing a replacement of the at least one cassette ~~(9, 9')~~ for which the signal
indicating the exceeding of the threshold value was produced.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein characterized
~~in that~~ the threshold value is variable.
3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein characterized
~~in that~~ the threshold value is specified in dependence on one or both time of day and
~~and/or~~ weekday.
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~or 3,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the threshold value is specified in dependence on the time
duration required for replacing the at least one cassette ~~(9, 9')~~.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims~~
~~1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the threshold value corresponds to a number of bank notes
contained in the at least one cassette ~~(9, 9')~~ which is lower than the maximum capacity
of the at least one cassette ~~(9, 9')~~ specified by a maximum permissible number of bank
notes.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ the threshold value corresponds to a total value of bank notes contained in the at least one cassette (9, 9') which is lower than the maximum capacity of the at least one cassette (9, 9') specified by a maximum permissible total value, ~~in particular an insurance value.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, including multiple cassettes, and wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the threshold value corresponds to a total value of the bank notes present in all cassettes ~~(9, 9')~~ of an automatic teller (10).

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 1, wherein ~~to 7, characterized in that~~ information about the bank notes (BA) contained in the at least one cassette (9, 9') is stored as cassette data, in a special, non-evaluable data format, in a nonvolatile memory ~~(8, 8')~~ associated with the at least one cassette (9, 9').

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the multiple cassettes are associated with an automatic teller and wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the cassette data contain information about number, denomination, currency, total value, time of deposit at the automatic teller (10) and identity of a ~~[[the]]~~ depositor.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein ~~or 9, characterized in that~~ master data for the at least one cassette (9, 9') are produced in ~~[[the]]~~ an automatic teller (10) and transmitted to a service center independently of the at least one cassette (9, 9'), and the master data are suitable for evaluating the information contained in the cassette data.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the information contained in the cassette data is used for checking the bank notes (BA) contained in the at least one cassette (9, 9').

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Preliminary Amendment

12. (Currently Amended) An automatic teller comprising one or both an (10) ~~and/or deposit device, characterized in that the automatic teller and a (10) and/or~~ deposit device ~~[[is]]~~ operated in accordance with the ~~by a method according to claim 1~~ any of claims 1 to 14.

13. (Currently Amended) A cassette (9, 9') for bank notes, comprising one or both ~~characterized in that the cassette (9, 9') is operated with an automatic teller and~~ a (10) and/or deposit device according to claim 12.